Proposal to privatise GoI Presses

*258. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to privatise three Government of India Text Book Printing Presses at Mysore, Bhubaneshwar and Chandigarh which were gifted to India by the Federal Republic of Germany under the UNESCO programme;

(b) whether the 133 year old Government of India Press at Shimla and the Government of India Forms Press at Kolkata are being given heavy doses of modernisation and kept out of privatisation programme; and

(c) whether apart from machinery gifted by Germany, the respective State Government had gifted free land to Presses at Mysore, Bhubaneshwar and Chandigarh and if so, whether gifted property and assets can be privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India Press at Shimla is being modernized and converted into Production-cum-Training Centre at a cost of Rs. 2.19 crore. So far as Government of India Forms Store, Kolkata is concerned, no modernization programme has been approved and the same is proposed to be retained with condition that no further recruitment will be made.

(c) Lands for Government of India Text Book Presses at Chandigarh and Bhubaneshwar were donated by respective State Governments free of cost and in respect of Text Book Press at Mysore, Land was alloted by the State Government on 99 years lease on a token rent of Re.1/- per annum. The Government has decided to privatize these Presses alongwith reasonable operational land area. Excess land available at these Presses is to be developed, if necessary, in collaboration with the State Government.

Increasing water crisis in Delhi

*259. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that acute water problem is increasing continuously in Delhi;